Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/19/78

Judge Burt W. Griffin
Court of Common Pleas
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Dear Judge Griffin,

If that Akron TV seminar had come off in 1966 it would be easier for you to understand the purposes for which I now write.

I have just seen your July 30,1976 letter to Mr. Martin J. Parker of Parma Heights, Ohio and your expression of emotion that is in it.

Your word, "cover-up," is in the subtitle of my second book. It is similar to the title of the series of four of my books, Whitewash. "That other information" of which you wrote, what "was withheld from the Commission and/or the Commission staff" has been my quest for more than a decade.

By means of the Freedom of Information Act I have brought an extraordinary amount of it to light. In addition to the marked part of the enclosed news account relating to the FBI's recent (and quite incomplete) releases, not fewer than 25 of the FOIA requests before it and compelling the releases are mine.

The deceptions practised on the Commission by the executive agencies are now being practised on the courts. False representations in opposition to FOIA suits are commonplace. My lawyer and I face them again in two current cases, both in briefing stage before the U.S. court of appeals in Washington. The FBI and the CIA are both seeking to foreclose discovery and to continue to withhold what was withheld from you.

One of these suits is for the spectrographic and neutron activation test results. The FBI claims it did not perform some tests, that it made no formal reports as people understand results and reports and that it never tabulated these results.

Over the years I have obtained and made available most of the transcripts of the Commission's executive sessions. In the second suit I seek those not yet available. One deals with Nosenko, that of June 23, 1964. Another with defectors, 10 pages of that of January 21,1964. You are probably aware of the effort to fire Norman Redlich and Joe Ball. This was at the session of May 19,1964. (With the latter the initial claim was that withholding was necessary to protect them from defamation. When I produced some of the more than 300 pages of the most terrible character assassination that was readily available the government shifted and we were foreclosed although we had been promised a hearing and expected it.) Relating to the January 21 transcript the CIA claims "national security" over the matter of those defectors who were discussed. I am confident that the names of all are available but cannot prove it without the transcript itself. A similar claim, gilded by the allegation that disclosing what he said would endanger his life, is made for the Nosenko transcript. Of course this did not stop his being made available by the CIA for the John Barron book KGB and for Epstein's current one, in today's news as still another "solution."

Some years ago, because of what he was then saying, because he is of mean and because I believed it served the personal interests of all former Commission counsel I sought to interest Joe Ball in helping bring this withheld information to light. He would not. Unable to pay a lawyer and in recent years with the as yet unpaid services of Jim Lesar I have done as much as I can, probably more than I should have hoped to be able to do.

In recent years I have undertaken to print as much as possible of the more significant records, in facsimile. Included are the two transcripts I obtained last, those of January 22 and 27. Of the first Dulles moved its destruction but the stenotypist's tape escaped the memory hole and it was transcribed for me under FOIA. The second is the one Ford

condensed and corrupted in his book. Both are pretty scamy.

I have also done this with medical evidence the Commission did not have, with some of the scientific tests results that were withheld and with some of the pictures.

Because this is a holiday weekend I cannot consult with my lawyer, Jim Lesar. He is preparing a brief on appeal due before you can receive this.

I write in the hope that you and perhaps other of the former Commission counsel will join in my effort to force these suppressed records out. I believe such an effort would be impressive to the judges on these cases, particularly to the appeals court which in its No. 75-2021 has already held that what I seek to do serves the nation's interest.

Whenever it has been possible and when the material warranted it I have held press conferences and given away copies to those who wanted them. I would do that with these transcripts, for example, and with any test results I may obtain. I plan no more writing on either subject. My sole purpose is to make the information available to all.

Whether or not you feel you are able to do this or are able to interest others in so doing, I have begun to establish a separate system of files for the information I am now obtaining. You are all welcome to access and copies. No quid pro quo. Others, not formerly of the Commission, have been here and used the latest almost 60,000 FBI pages, for example.

All of my records will be an archive at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point branch because the outstanding bibliographer in the field, a responsible man who does not espouse conspiracy theories, is on the history faculty there. All will forever be available to those who want access. (He is Dr. David Wrone, if you'd care to check.)

If you would like to know more Jim Lesar's office is at 910 16 Street, NW, Washington 20006, 202/223-5587. When he has to work long hours on the briefs, as he is now, he is up late and works mornings at his home, 484-6023.

Please excuse the haste and the typing. The ill health referred to in the story is circulation impairment in both veins and arteries. I have to type with my legs up.

If you feel you cannot help I assure you I will never use it against you. But I do hope that you and perhaps some of the others, now that so many of the sordid FBI records have been reported, will help in this completely unselfish and non-partisan effort, knowing that you were all imposed upon on the Commission.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg